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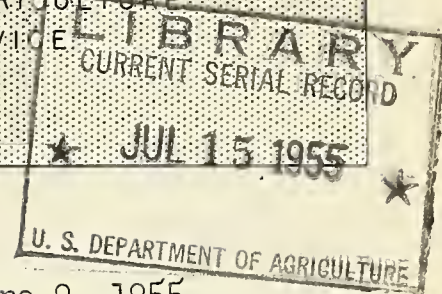
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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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## WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION IN 1954

Production of meat during 1954 in the principal countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, was approximately 3 percent greater than the record output of 1953, 24 percent greater than the 1946-50 average, and 20 percent above prewar. Production in the 42 countries for which detailed production estimates have been prepared totaled 83 billion pounds during 1954 and accounted for perhaps 93 percent of the world output, exclusive of China, according to information collected and analyzed by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Meat output is now substantially above the 1946-50 average in Eastern and Western Europe, the U.S.S.R., Australia, New Zealand, and North America. But production in South America apparently is below the average. Fairly large increases in meat production during 1954 were recorded in Western Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand. But production in South America as a whole during the year apparently was below 1953.

A further moderate increase in meat output during 1955 is in prospect. World cattle and sheep numbers have been increasing and have established new high records. Hog numbers rose 6 percent during 1954 to set also a new high total. The increased number of hogs in the world is already showing up in increased pork production. Indications now point to record meat production during 1955 in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, France, and a number of countries in Western Europe. Production in the United States, the world's largest producer, is expected to show its fourth consecutive increase and attain a new high. Output of both beef and pork are likely to increase with most of the increase occurring in pork.

Progressive increases in meat production for several years in the United Kingdom, the United States, Western Germany, Italy, Sweden, and France are tending to limit import requirements. However, during the past 2 years the U.S.S.R. has imported large quantities of meat from the free world. Also with general world prosperity there has been a continued strong demand for meat, which has tended to provide a favorable market for surplus producing countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Argentina, Uruguay, and Ireland.



World meat output has now reached such high levels that it would appear that the principal exporting countries may expect lower prices for their production, and the competition for export markets will become more severe. New Zealand, Australia, Germany, and France have embarked on programs to develop new export outlets for their production. Some of these countries, together with Denmark, appear particularly interested in increasing shipments to the U.S.S.R. and other Eastern European areas, in view of the dim outlook for increased sales in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom is by far the largest meat importing country in the world and accounted for 76 percent of all meat entering international trade in 1953.

Meat 1/: Summary of World Production, 1954, with Comparisons

Continent or Area	Average 1946-50	1953	Preliminary 1954	Increase (✓) or Decrease (-)	
				1954 1946-50	1954 1953
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Percent	Percent
No. America 2/	25,766	28,277	29,076	✓ 12.8	✓ 2.8
Europe 3/	20,000	28,132	29,520	✓ 46.9	✓ 4.9
U.S.S.R.	4/	4/	4/	-	-
Middle East 5/	4/	4/	4/	-	-
Rep. of Philippines	125	181	192	✓ 53.6	✓ 6.1
So. America 6/	10,054	9,651	9,522	- 5.3	- 1.3
Un. of So. Africa	917	959	941	✓ 2.6	- 1.9
Oceania 7/	3,338	3,812	3,928	✓ 17.7	✓ 3.0
Total 8/	67,117	80,801	83,000	✓ 23.7	✓ 2.7

1/ Carcass meat - excludes offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Canada, Mexico, United States and Cuba. 3/ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Western Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland, Finland, and Rumania. 4/ Estimates included in the total. 5/ Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Iran. 6/ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, and Uruguay. 7/ Australia and New Zealand. 8/ Total for 42 countries as listed above. During 1938, 41 of these countries produced an estimated 66.3 billion pounds of meat out of an estimated total of 70 billion pounds for 67 countries, excluding China. It is estimated that the 42 countries produce 93 percent of the world meat output, exclusive of China.

Stocks of frozen meat have accumulated in the United Kingdom since decontrol in July 1954. Home production has increased substantially in recent years. Home production during 1954 supplied 67 percent of the nation's requirements of carcass meat and edible offal compared with 65 percent in 1951 and only 51 percent in pre-war. Domestic production supplied 46 percent of the bacon and ham used in the United Kingdom last year compared with only 29 percent in prewar. Since the decontrol of the meat trade and the end of rationing, British consumers have shown a strong preference for fresh and chilled meats over frozen supplies. Current wholesale prices of frozen Australian and New Zealand beef are about half the prices of comparable grades of home-produced and Irish beef. This has resulted in a sharp increase in exports of chilled beef from Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and Uruguay for the British trade. Frozen lamb in the United Kingdom is selling at a distinct discount under prices of chilled carcasses.

Apparently total meat production in the principal producing countries of South America during 1954 was slightly less than a year earlier and moderately below the 1946-50 average. Because meat output continues low exports have dwindled. In a number of countries demand for meat has continued unusually strong at controlled prices and larger amounts have been consumed domestically.

Argentina has finally filled its beef deficit to the United Kingdom under contract to the British Ministry of Food which had been arranged prior to decontrol in 1954. Free trade sales of beef are now being made. The steady flow of cattle which is anticipated during the winter months will probably be large enough to provide a surplus for export, the bulk of which will go as chilled beef to the United Kingdom. A recent barter agreement with the U.S.S.R. included 44 million pounds of mutton and about half of this has been shipped. Exports of lamb during the first five months of 1955, mostly to the United Kingdom, totaled 37 million pounds. Exports of pork sides have been prohibited since August 1954, except for small shipments to Czechoslovakia, which were completed this spring. A small export quota has been authorized for shipment in July. Additional pork exports this year will probably be small.

Planned exports of beef from Uruguay this year are much less than during 1954. These exports will be heavily subsidized. (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 28, 1955).

The above report is one of a regularly scheduled series on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad.

A summary of this information was published in the June 6, 1955 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.



MEAT 1/: Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton, lamb and goat meat, and total meat in specified countries in 1954, with comparison

Country	Beef and Veal				Pork (excluding lard)				Mutton, Lamb and Goat				Total				1954 as Percent of			
	Average		Average		Average		Average		Average		Average		Average		Average		Average		Average	
	1946-50	1953	1954 2/	1953	1946-50	1953	1954 2/	1953	1946-50	1953	1954 2/	1953	1946-50	1953	1954 2/	1953	1946-50	1953	1946-50	1953
	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>																				
Canada	1,043	1,041	1,135	915	956	915	930	29	54	2,053	30	1,985	2,095	1,985	2,095	102	106	102	106	106
Mexico	723	763	863	265	262	265	317	68	50	1,035	48	1,096	1,228	1,096	1,228	119	112	119	112	112
United States	10,980	13,989	14,647	10,063	10,541	10,063	9,952	728	743	22,264	734	24,780	25,333	24,780	25,333	114	102	114	102	102
Cuba	375	372	376	42	37	42	44	2	2	414	-	416	420	416	420	101	101	101	101	101
<b>EUROPE</b>																				
Austria	158	263	267	232	232	402	393	4	10	407	4	679	675	679	675	166	99	166	99	99
Belgium	238	354	386	267	267	394	386	6	7	559	6	804	839	804	839	150	104	150	104	104
Denmark	327	394	419	520	520	1,012	1,110	3	7	884	2	1,443	1,570	1,443	1,570	178	109	178	109	109
Finland	91	115	116	109	109	134	134	17	11	220	17	279	279	279	279	127	100	127	100	100
France	1,937	2,557	2,998	1,398	1,398	2,028	1,984	243	185	3,648	243	5,004	5,423	5,004	5,423	149	108	149	108	108
Germany, Western	1,060	1,722	1,836	1,530	1,530	2,848	2,925	45	45	2,700	39	4,684	4,870	4,684	4,870	180	104	180	104	104
Greece	23	24	28	38	38	48	49	112	91	152	127	184	204	184	204	134	111	134	111	111
Ireland	158	178	194	129	129	195	224	45	40	327	48	418	466	418	466	143	111	143	111	111
Italy	522	800	878	645	645	835	875	110	103	1,306	108	1,807	1,918	1,807	1,918	147	106	147	106	106
Netherlands	227	375	402	294	294	626	639	17	13	555	14	1,035	1,086	1,035	1,086	196	105	196	105	105
Norway	87	96	104	70	70	85	93	35	30	193	37	222	235	222	235	122	106	122	106	106
Portugal	62	77	91	215	215	208	186	48	47	324	53	335	332	335	332	102	99	102	99	99
Sweden	261	264	276	341	341	400	432	4	7	637	4	696	737	696	737	116	106	116	106	106
Switzerland	173	213	213	148	148	219	212	5	4	336	5	446	430	446	430	128	96	128	96	96
United Kingdom	1,230	1,398	1,416	490	490	1,219	1,317	386	305	2,025	409	3,003	3,142	3,003	3,142	155	105	155	105	105
Yugoslavia	217	208	239	421	421	313	446	101	127	784	123	644	830	644	830	106	129	106	129	129
<b>ASIA</b>																				
Turkey	208	287	308	-	87	136	-	366	307	515	385	653	693	653	693	135	106	135	106	106
Rep. of the Philippines	33	41	42	51	51	42	144	4	3	125	4	181	192	181	192	154	106	154	106	106
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>																				
Argentina	4,284	3,637	3,527	391	391	320	287	441	540	5,215	485	4,398	4,299	4,398	4,299	82	98	82	98	98
Brazil	2,114	2,352	2,376	512	512	560	571	88	69	2,695	86	3,000	3,033	3,000	3,033	113	101	113	101	101
Chile	280	249	-	52	52	63	-	110	94	426	-	422	-	422	-	99	-	99	-	-
Colombia	635	650	-	75	75	93	-	30	35	745	-	773	-	773	-	104	-	104	-	-
Paraguay	230	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	170	-	170	-	74	-	74	-	-
Uruguay	543	707	662	36	36	43	33	138	164	743	132	888	827	888	827	111	93	111	93	93
<b>AFRICA</b>																				
Union of South Africa	650	671	658	82	82	92	84	196	185	917	199	959	941	959	941	103	98	103	98	98
<b>OCEANIA</b>																				
Australia	1,226	1,579	1,618	210	210	189	194	823	701	2,137	840	2,591	2,652	2,591	2,652	124	102	124	102	102
New Zealand	409	402	461	84	84	90	82	729	708	1,201	733	1,221	1,276	1,221	1,276	106	105	106	105	105

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes offal and lard. 2/ Includes horsemeat in addition to types shown in other columns, if it is produced in quantity. 3/ Preliminary.  
 4/ Includes carcass weight equivalent of live animals exported. 5/ Average for less than five years. 6/ Excludes farm production. 7/ Years ending September 30.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Foreign Agricultural Service, May, 1955.